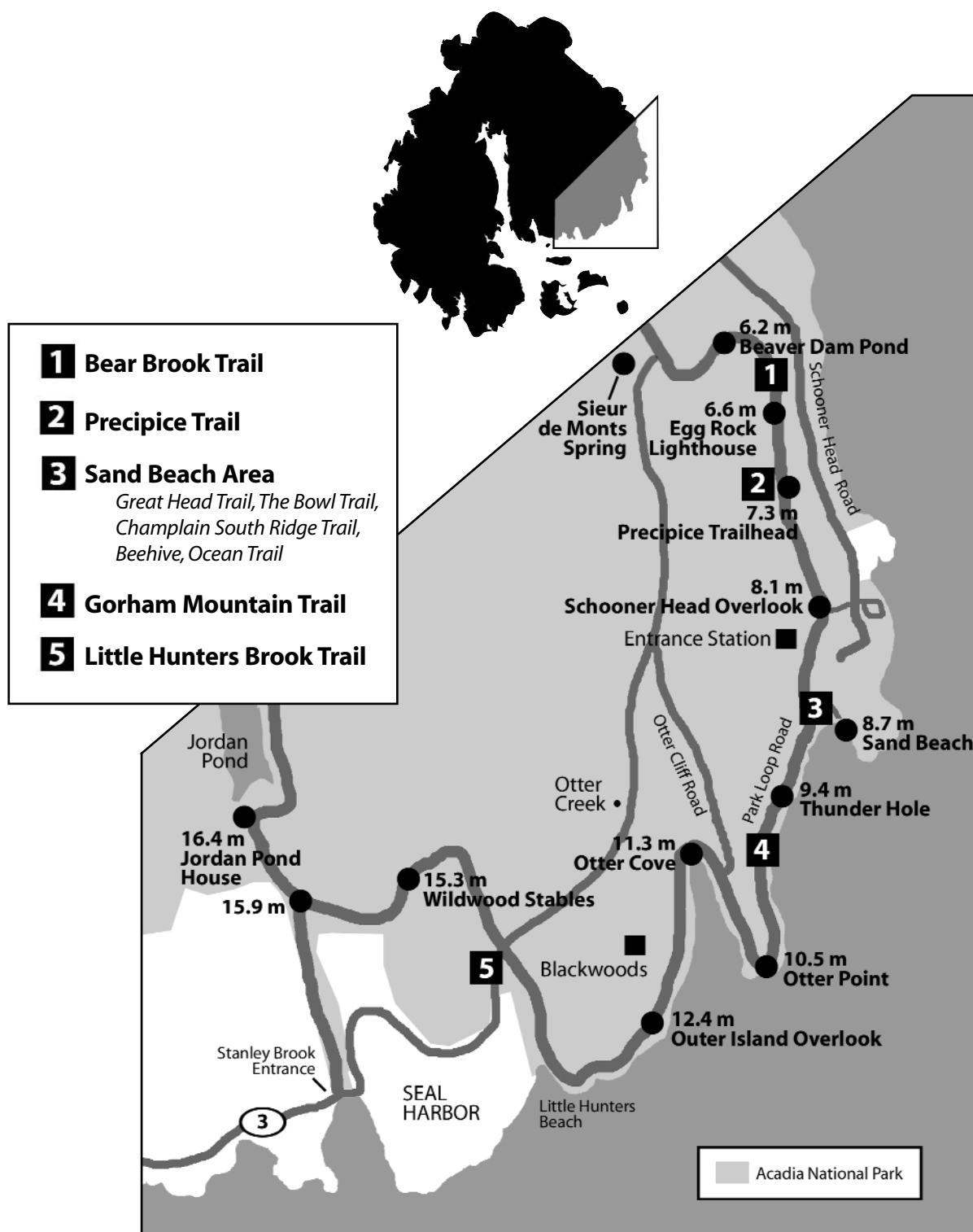


## SECTION TWO – PARK SITES

### Chapter Seven – Park Loop Road Sieur de Monts Spring to Jordan Pond





## **Before You Go – What to Know Park Loop Road (Sieur de Monts Spring to Jordan Pond) Logistics**

### **LOCATION**

This eleven-mile one-way section of road encompasses the exceptional scenery of Acadia's coastline before winding toward the island interior through towering spruce and pine spires. The popular sites of the Precipice, Sand Beach, Thunder Hole, Otter Cliffs, and Otter Point are located along this portion of the Park Loop Road. Access for the entire route is from the Park Loop Road or from 3 miles south of Bar Harbor on State Route 3 at Sieur de Monts Spring entrance; from Schooner Head Road in Bar Harbor to the left of Ocean Drive Dairy Bar (enters park at entrance station); or at Otter Cliffs Road, 4 miles south of Bar Harbor on State Route 3 (enters park at Otter Cliffs). Because the road is one-way these last two entrances will only take you to a portion of the drive.

### **AREA HIGHLIGHTS**

Stopping points for opportunities to view or learn about two of Acadia National Park's animals—the beaver and peregrine falcon.

#### **Beaver Dam Pond**

Small pond with beaver lodge.

#### **Precipice**

Champlain Mountain's steep-sided cliff; home to peregrine falcons.

#### **Ocean Scenery**

- *Egg Rock Overlook*: Lighthouse view
- *Schooner Head Overlook*: Exceptional view of Frenchman Bay and coastline
- *Ocean Trail*: Level pathway paralleling the Park Loop Road for those preferring to walk
- *Sand Beach*: Wide expanse of broken shell and sand beach in Newport Cove
- *Thunder Hole*: Rocky chasm that thunders when surf is heavy
- *Otter Cliffs*: Scenic 90 foot cliffs along the ocean front
- *Otter Point*: Rocky coastline good for exploring

#### **Wildwood Stables**

Wildwood Stables provides historic horse and carriage tours along Acadia's scenic carriage roads daily from mid-June to early October. For more information call (207) 276-3622. Wildwood Stables also offers a horse camp for visitors wishing to bring their horses with them. No horseback riding is offered through Wildwood. Wildwood Stables is located on the Park Loop Road, one half mile south of the Jordan Pond House Restaurant.

## **TIME ALLOTMENT**

Driving this eleven mile section of road takes 25 minutes. Expect to spend a minimum of an hour and a half with overlooks and one or two site specific stops. The following are suggested time spans for time required to get off bus, enjoy site, use restrooms if necessary, and re-board bus. Considerably more time can be spent at these locations if desired.

- *Precipice*: 10 minutes, if interested in learning about or watching peregrines
- *Sand Beach*: 45 minutes, depending on your group
- *Thunder Hole*: 20 minutes, depending on your group
- *Otter Point*: 30 minutes, if walking a portion of the Ocean Trail

## **PARKING**

Parking is available in the right hand lane of the Park Loop Road and at specific parking areas mentioned in the background information/narrative section.

## **FACILITIES**

- *Bear Brook Picnic Area*: Flush toilet, picnic tables, grills
- *Sand Beach*: Flush toilet, pay phones
- *Thunder Hole*: Vault toilet, small gift shop with film, snacks, souvenirs
- *Fabbri Picnic Area*: Flush toilet, picnic tables, grills
- *Otter Cliffs*: Portable toilet
- *Otter Point Parking*: Vault toilet
- *Wildwood Stables*: Flush toilet (not accessible)

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

- Beaver Dam Pond, the Precipice, Schooner Head and other overlooks can all be viewed from a vehicle.
- Sand Beach view is accessible from the top of the stairs. There is no access to the beach.
- Thunder Hole has a viewing platform. There is no access all the way to the bottom of the stairs. Thunder Hole gift shop is not accessible.
- Sand Beach, Bear Brook, and Fabbri Picnic Areas have accessible restrooms.
- Carriage rides from Wildwood Stables are accessible with assistance. Restrooms are not accessible.

## **SAFETY**

- Parking occurs in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road. Please be alert to parked cars, as well as cyclists maneuvering around them. This area is extremely congested in July and August.
- Please follow posted speed limits: 35 mph before entrance station; 25 mph between entrance station and Otter Point; 35 mph inland to Jordan Pond.
- Sand Beach and Thunder Hole are reached via a series of stairs (Thunder Hole also has a viewing ramp for wheelchair users). Please use handrails and watch your footing.
- Rocks around the intertidal zone are slippery. If exploring in these areas, wear appropriate shoes (good tread) and watch your footing.
- During storms, stay back from the water's edge. Waves are unpredictable and can knock you down.
- Poison ivy is found along the Ocean Trail in some sections.

## **TRAILHEADS AND TRAILHEAD CONNECTIONS**

### **Bear Brook Picnic Area to Sand Beach**

- *Bear Brook Trail (M)*
- *The Precipice (L)*

### **Sand Beach/Ocean Drive Area**

- *Great Head Trail (M)*
- *The Bowl Trail (M)*
- *Champlain South Ridge Trail (M)*
- *Beehive (L)*
- *Ocean Trail (E)*
- *Gorham Mountain Trail (M)*
- *Cadillac Cliffs Trail (S)*

### **Otter Point to Jordan Pond**

- *Ocean Trail (E)*
- *Hunter's Brook Trail (M)*



## **At a Glance**

### **Sieur de Monts Spring to Jordan Pond**

#### **SIGNIFICANCE**

Acadia National Park protects 41 miles of coastline, 25 percent of all the publicly owned shoreline in Maine. These miles of coast where the mountains meet the sea include rocky cliffs and tidepools, sand, boulder, and cobble beaches, and quiet coves. It is the ocean setting that this section of the Park Loop Road delivers. Almost any location along these rocky headlands displays majestic views of the classic Maine coastline. Park staff, through re-vegetation efforts, education programs, and resource protection signs try to meet the challenge of maintaining the coastal integrity of this popular and often congested park area.

The second half of the drive winds inland in the subdued quiet of a beautiful spruce forest typical of the eastern side of Acadia before the fire of 1947.

#### **FAST FACTS**

##### **Wildlife**

- Beavers, exterminated from Mount Desert Island due to trapping in the early 20th century were reintroduced by George B. Dorr in 1920.
- Peregrine falcons, once on the endangered species list, are small crow-sized raptors that can dive up to 100 mph after their songbird prey. They nest in Acadia today partly because of a successful reintroduction program.

##### **Ocean**

- Sand Beach's beautiful expanse of sand is more than meets the eye—it is mostly made from small shell fragments.
- Sand Beach's warmest water temperature is between 55 and 60 degrees in August. Brr! Despite the temperature, swimming is popular.
- The best time to try to hear Thunder Hole boom is two hours before high tide or during storms.
- Acadia's tidal range is eight to fourteen feet. Tidepools are characterized by five distinct zones named for their dominant animal or plant. From highest to lowest level: black (blue-green algae) zone, barnacle zone, rockweed zone, Irish moss zone, kelp zone.

### **Natural History**

- The fire of 1947 burned over Great Head, but blew out to sea before engulfing the area between Otter Cliffs and Otter Point. The forest area to the south of Gorham Mountain did not burn, and remains primarily spruce.
- An example of the shoreline after the glaciers receded 12,500 years ago can be found at an elevation of 240 feet along the Cadillac Cliffs trail off of the Gorham Mountain trail.

### **History**

- Locations bearing the name “otter” are most likely named for river otters. There are no sea otters in this region.
- During World War I, a strategically important naval radio station operated from Otter Point. It was moved to Schoodic Peninsula to allow for the continuation of the Park Loop Road.

### **PROTECT YOUR PARK – HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Remember to follow *Leave No Trace* principles. In particular:

- Do not feed wildlife. This includes sea gulls. Feeding only exacerbates the problem of wildlife depending on humans to feed them.
- At Sand Beach, please remain off the sand dunes. They are fragile. Dogs are not allowed on the beach.
- Picnics are popular all along the shoreline. Please remember to take all trash out with you, even orange peels, apple cores, peanut shells, etc. They are inappropriate for wildlife to eat and look unsightly.
- This section of the Park Loop Road is extremely congested, especially in July and August. If possible, try the *Island Explorer* shuttle bus and leave your vehicle behind or visit this section in the early morning or late afternoon.
- If visiting tidepools, use extreme caution with the plants and animals. Please respect their fragile nature by choosing to observe their mysterious world, and not removing them from their homes.
- Please leave everything as you find it in the park. There is no collecting.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### PARK LOOP ROAD (SIEUR DE MONTS SPRING TO JORDAN POND)

#### Sieur de Monts Spring to Sand Beach

##### **Fact Sheets:**

Wildlife 3-3  
Keeping Wildlife Wild 3-6  
Wildlife Research 3-8  
Beaver 3-11  
Peregrine Falcons 3-25  
Plant Groups of Acadia National Park 3-43  
Caring for Acadia's Native Plants 3-47  
Acadia's Common Plants 3-50  
Geology 3-66

##### **Appendix:**

Endangered Wildlife Categories in State of Maine (B)  
Glacial Geology (D)  
Mountains (D)  
Lighthouses (F)

#### Sand Beach to Otter Point

##### **Fact Sheets:**

Geographic Features 3-63  
Life Between the Tides 3-71  
Suggestions for a Low Impact Visit to the Shore 3-76  
Intertidal Animals 3-77  
Intertidal Plants 3-79

#### Otter Point to Jordan Pond

##### **Fact Sheets:**

Seabirds 3-32  
Portrait of Three 19th Century Families 3-116



## **Background Information/Narrative Sieur de Monts Spring to Sand Beach**

Note: Narratives/Background Information for this section of the Park Loop Road are divided into three sections: 1) Sieur de Monts Spring to Sand Beach 2) Sand Beach to Otter Point and 3) Otter Point to Jordan Pond. Mileage taken from visitor center.

Just after Sieur de Monts Spring at mile 6.1 is Bear Brook Picnic Area. Located in a wooded area with surrounding rocky outcroppings, picnic tables, grills, and restrooms are available.

### **BEAVER DAM POND**

*Passengers remain on bus.*

#### **Location**

*Mile 6.2* Beyond the picnic area, on the right hand side of the road, the forest opens to Beaver Dam Pond, a lovely pool silhouetted by a birch and aspen-covered hillside.

#### **Parking**

There are no specified parking spaces. You may stop in the right hand lane of the Park Loop Road to view the pond.

Look to the northern end of the pond to spy a beaver lodge. A well-constructed dome of sticks and mud, the lodge is hollowed by the beaver chewing through the interior. The lodge has underwater entrances and is nicely appointed with two levels, one for sleeping and the other, for use like a mud room. Beavers are one of the few species that manipulate the environment around them to create a new habitat. A stream that can be dammed or a pond surrounded by their favorite trees, aspen and birch, is ideal habitat for the beaver.

The watchful eye of a patient observer at dawn or dusk may be rewarded by a glimpse of these fascinating creatures. Not so likely in the early 1900s however. Primarily due to fur trapping, beavers had been eliminated from Mount Desert Island. George B. Dorr, the first superintendent, reintroduced two pairs to the island.

Beaver Dam Pond is an area of concern for park managers. Purple loosestrife, a showy purple flowering perennial, is an exotic plant species that is invading the pond's shrubby margins. Purple loosestrife's native lands are in Europe, along with its natural environmental controls that keep it from being so invasive. If left uncontrolled, the plant could eventually displace the pond's native vegetation that



wildlife rely on. A management program to control this non-native plant was put into play to protect this wetland habitat.

Many examples of conservation and protection, like the reintroduction of native species can be found in the Acadia area. The next two sites ahead, the vista to Frenchman Bay and Egg Rock Lighthouse, and the Precipice, illustrate two important events in the protection of wildlife.

As you drive away from Beaver Dam Pond, Jackson Laboratory, the world-renowned research facility in genetics and mice breeding for research is visible along the park's eastern boundary with Bar Harbor. At mile 6.4 is the trailhead for Bear Brook Trail that climbs Champlain Mountain's northern ridge.

### **EGG ROCK LIGHTHOUSE OVERLOOK**

*Passengers can remain on bus.*

#### **Location**

*Mile 6.6*

#### **Parking**

No specified parking spaces. Pull-off for parallel parking for approximately 8 vehicles.

NOTE: Interpretive sign

As the road climbs, views of Frenchman Bay, Egg Rock Lighthouse, Schoodic Peninsula and the indented Acadia coast open. Schoodic Peninsula is another part of Acadia National Park. The 2266 acre parcel is a one hour drive from Mount Desert Island to the north. It is next to the town of Winter Harbor. Egg Rock, the island with a small lighthouse, is visible between Schoodic Peninsula and Mount Desert Island. The lighthouse was built in 1875, but now is completely automated like all Maine lighthouses.

Many ledges and islands off the Maine coast carry the name of Egg Rock, bearing the history of seabird egg collection by fishermen in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This activity, combined with the millinery trade and hunting, threatened seabird survival. Common seabirds of today, like the eider duck and the herring gull, were almost exterminated. Some, like the great auk, a flightless seabird, disappeared altogether. One of the first conservation acts in this country was the legal protection of seabirds. The Audubon Society became the first private conservation organization formed in response. At Egg Rock, lighthouse keepers became the frontline

protectors of these birds. These protective conservation efforts allowed for the re-establishment of these species.

As the road descends, the large estate along the shore is the Highseas Estate, built in 1912. It stands as a symbolic remnant having survived the fire of 1947 which raged around it. Protective efforts saved it from the flames. Today, it serves as summer housing for Jackson Lab employees.

### **(LG/K) THE PEREGRINE AND THE PRECIPICE**

*Appropriate for passengers to get off bus if viewing of peregrine site is desired.*

#### **Location**

*Mile 7.3*

#### **Parking**

The parking lot offers some parallel parking for buses and approximately 25 diagonal spaces. Parking is available on the right hand side of the Park Loop Road as well.

NOTE: During the late spring and early summer, if peregrines are nesting, visitors may have a chance to spy them with the help of a park ranger. Spotting scopes and informal interpretation are available in the parking lot to help visitors learn more about these incredible birds.

Looming along the western edge of the Park Loop Road is the steep face of Champlain Mountain and the cliff-hugging trail, the Precipice. A favorite trail of many visitors, hikers must wait for the trail to open each summer, usually toward the end of July, after peregrine falcons have nested.

Peregrine falcons are impressive raptors, able to hit songbirds, their primary food, in mid-flight, knocking them to the ground. Widespread DDT use in the 1950s and 1960s caused residual effects as DDT accumulated within the food chain, eventually affecting all birds of prey. DDT reduced calcium production for thick egg shells, causing them to break easily. Reproduction rates dropped dramatically. By the end of the 1960s, peregrines were completely gone from east of the Mississippi.

Historically, Acadia had two nesting sites of peregrine falcons, but by 1962, they had disappeared from Acadia's skies. A successful reintroduction program returned these birds to Acadia once again. From 1984 until 1986 Acadia worked in cooperation with Cornell University and the Peregrine Fund in Boise, Idaho as part of a nationwide effort to restore these magnificent birds to their rightful habitats.

Hand-reared in a Cornell University lab for about a month, the chicks were transferred to a cliff-face on Penobscot Mountain and placed in a specially equipped box. This method of reintroduction is called hacking.

22 of the 23 chicks hacked successfully took flight. In 1987, an adult peregrine appeared, and the project ended. Monitoring began of the cliff where this one returning peregrine seemed to favor, the Precipice on Champlain Mountain. Today, peregrines nest at the Precipice as well as other Acadia mountains.

Reintroductions are a last act of hope to protect a species. The beaver, as mentioned before, and the peregrine have returned to their natural habitat because of reintroduction efforts. Protection of seabirds in the early 1900s helped to halt their demise. Protection of critical habitat before animal populations drop drastically is always a much better option, and one of the important reasons for places like national parks.

### **SCHOONER HEAD OVERLOOK**

*Passengers can remain on bus.*

#### **Location**

*Mile 8.1* Just before the entrance station is a turn-off to the left for Schooner Head Overlook. The overlook is 3/10 of a mile. Watch for signs. A return to Bar Harbor on the Schooner Head Road is also an option.

#### **Parking**

Circular parking lot with approximately 30 diagonal spaces.

NOTE: Interpretive sign

The overlook views a rocky promontory and Frenchman Bay islands. A large seasonal home sits on the edge of this peninsula - a reminder of the importance of Acadia's boundary legislation.

One of the values that most visitors come to cherish in a national park are outstanding scenic views. At one time the view from the overlook was undeveloped shoreline. Because of Acadia's jigsaw shape boundary, the view was not in public hands, but privately owned. The private landowner, certainly within his rights, built the massive seasonal home, forever altering the view of Maine's wild coastline.

Although the jigsaw-shaped boundary of the park meant some ecologically or scenically significant lands were not protected, it also symbolizes the generosity of private landowners who have donated land parcels to the American people to form this national park. The reason for the peculiar park boundary was Acadia's original charter which stated that only land donations would create this small national park, not federal funds. Today, Acadia National Park has worked with local communities and private landowners to create a final permanent park boundary focusing on the protection of critical areas.

Looking to the northwest, the full line of Champlain Mountain's ridge is visible. Most of Acadia's mountains are made from a coarse-grained pink granite. Granite is an intrusive (beneath the earth) igneous rock. As in all intrusive igneous rocks, granite is "born of fire" and formed from magma beneath the surface of the Earth. Magma is a molten rock composed of a mixture of liquid chemical compounds, dissolved gases, and some solids. Perhaps as many as 420 million years ago, a huge molasses-like plug formed miles beneath the surface in the Acadia area we know today. This magma reservoir worked its way up from the mantle of the Earth, displacing the overlying bedrock. It cooled slowly, crystallizing into large grains of feldspar (pink), quartz (white), and hornblende (black), forming the coarse-grained granite known to anyone hiking Acadia's summits. Eons of erosion stripped the other bedrock layers away, eventually exposing the granite.

*Return to Park Loop Road or turn right down Schooner Head Road back to Bar Harbor.*

### **Entrance Station**

At mile 8.1 is the entrance station. Entrance fees paid at the entrance station return to the National Park Service for specific projects. Information on entrance fees can be found on page 1-36.



## **Background Information/Narrative**

### **Sand Beach to Otter Point**

#### **(LG/K) SAND BEACH**

*Appropriate for passengers to get off bus.*

#### **Location**

*Mile 8.7* Sand Beach is approximately a half mile from the entrance station. Turn left into the main parking lot. The beach is not visible from the parking lot, but can be seen from the top of the stairs leading to the beach.

#### **Parking**

Sand Beach has two parking lots. The lower one is large (approximately 150 spaces) but fills to capacity in July and August. The upper lot is small with 25 parking spaces and is used for those interested in walking the Ocean Trail or hiking the Beehive.

Parking on the right hand side of the Park Loop Road is also possible if both lots are full. Signs are usually posted if that is the case.

NOTE: Interpretive sign at top of stairs.

The first view of Sand Beach captivates many visitors, whether it is in sparkling sunshine, bathed in fog, or awash with crashing waves. Sand Beach is well known for its sunbathers and cold water temperatures, but it has other reasons to be recognized as well.

Since eons of erosion are needed to whittle away at the shoreline's crooked rockbound character, this pocket beach is a rarity along Maine's geologically young coast. Sand Beach is nestled in Newport Cove, partially enclosed by the arm of Great Head to the east, Old Soaker (rock ledge in cove) to the south, and the cliffs of Ocean Drive to the west. The beach's shallow slope and relatively quiet waters allow for the deposition of fine sediment material diverted into the cove by Great Head and Old Soaker.

A close look at a handful of sand reveals blues, greens, creams, purples, and pinks. Up to 70 percent of the sand mixture is broken shells from intertidal creatures like mussels, sea urchins, barnacles, and periwinkles. Feldspar and quartz from the local granite bedrock add pink and white hues. The shell content primarily originates from juvenile intertidal creatures that start their life along the beach's exposed rockbound edges. The seasonal loss and accretion of sand exposes rock one season only to cover it with sand the next, burying tide pool creatures. Their broken shells are eventually deposited back onto Sand Beach.

This seasonal sand variation due to wave action is also evidenced in the sporadic unveiling of a wrecked schooner beneath the sand. In 1911, the Schooner *Tay* ran aground on Old Soaker, coming to rest on Sand Beach. Over time its deteriorated hull was covered by sand, but on occasion, the schooner's remaining ribs have re-surfaced.

The sand dunes behind the beach are another feature. Fenced off to protect their fragile nature, they are considered ecologically significant due to the scarcity of such dunes along the Maine coast. The botanically exceptional stand of American beach grass associated with the dunes is critical for stabilizing the shifting sands.

In the distance behind Sand Beach, the profile of the Beehive looms to the north. Look closely for hikers on the cliffside, easily dwarfed by the mountain wall. This trail is a favorite hike for many and serves as a good introduction to the Precipice Trail, a longer and more strenuous hike. Like the Precipice, the Beehive trail has metal rungs embedded in the granite for climbing and small metal bridges to cross chasms. These steep southern cliffs were sculpted by glacial plucking, a process where fingers of ice tore rocks from mountain slopes as the ice sheet advanced southward.

*Option: The Ocean Trail, beginning from the upper lot of Sand Beach, is a two mile walk that parallels the Park Loop Road. If desired, passengers can walk along any portion of it. As an example, passengers wishing to walk could meet the bus at Thunder Hole.*

## **SAND BEACH TO THUNDER HOLE**

*No planned stops.*

After Sand Beach, views along the Park Loop Road open to the breathtaking interface between land and sea that defines Acadia for many visitors. In 1930, as part of the on-going construction of park roads, this section of the Park Loop Road was reconstructed and extended to Otter Point. The original road from Sand Beach to Otter Cliffs was built in 1886. It followed a favorite walking route of rusticators and cottagers who reveled in the shoreline sites. A popular excursion in the mid-to late 1800s was to Thunder Hole.

## **(LG/K) THUNDER HOLE**

*Appropriate for passengers to get off bus.*

### **Location**

*Mile 9.4 Across from Thunder Hole Gift Shop*

### **Parking**

There is a small parking lot (approximately 30 spaces) at the gift shop. Many people choose to park in the right hand lane of the Park Loop Road.

Thunder Hole often elicits only a sloshing gurgle, but under appropriate conditions, it does indeed bellow. When ocean waves slap against this narrow chasm, air becomes trapped deep in its chamber. When released, a booming sound results from the once-trapped air. The best time to see Thunder Hole is at mid-tide rising or during ocean storms, when its thunderous rumble is accompanied by plumes of ocean spray. During such storms, the steps to Thunder Hole are closed, although its booming and resulting spray can be seen and heard from a distance. Waves can be unpredictable and visitors should take appropriate precautions.

Of the 2500 miles of coastline in Maine, only 150 miles are protected. Twenty-five percent of those are found at Acadia National Park. Considering the congestion that this section of the park experiences, especially in July and August, protection is challenging here. Millions of visitors plus vehicle exhaust add more stress to the plants and animals already living along the island's edge. Riding the *Island Explorer* bus instead of using individual vehicles is one answer to the congestion and exhaust problem. Visitor compliance to remain on trails lessens erosion and the impact of visitation on fragile plant communities living on granite ledges.

## **THUNDER HOLE TO OTTER CLIFFS**

*No planned stops.*

The rocky shoreline can be an inhospitable environment for many plants. Thin soil, rapid run-off, strong winds, exposure, salt water spray, and minimal fresh water are natural stresses that coastal species must contend with. Those plants that do live here are well adapted to the difficult conditions. White spruce, which prefers cool coastal temperatures, has a shallow root system that can spread over rocky ledges. Bayberry's thick waxy leaves help to conserve moisture. The non-native rugosa rose can spread quickly by shallow underground root runners. This rose was introduced to help stabilize seaside soils in southern New England and the mid-Atlantic centuries ago.

- *Mile 9.7:* Gorham Mountain Parking Area (15 spaces)
- *Mile 9.8:* This small unmarked parking lot (20 spaces) is a good location to park so your group can walk along the Ocean Trail and linger over the ocean view.
- *Mile 9.9:* To the right is Otter Cliffs Road. Fabbri Picnic Area is 2/10 of a mile on this road. Fabbri has restrooms, picnic tables, and grills. If continuing on Otter Cliffs Road, it will lead to State Route 3. A left turn on State Route 3 leads to the town of Otter Creek and Blackwoods Campground; a right turn leads back to Bar Harbor.

## **OTTER CLIFFS**

*Passengers can remain on bus, although there is parking for those interested in enjoying the ocean view a bit longer.*

### **Location**

*Mile 10.1*

### **Parking**

There is a small 15 space lot to the right before the Park Loop Road splits into a two-tiered road. There is no parking on the split road, as there is no way for vehicles to pass.

The Park Loop Road rises slightly above Otter Cliffs and offers panoramic ocean views giving one a sense of the expansive ocean horizon. From Otter Cliffs to Jordan Pond, the character of the forest changes from the deciduous woods of the first half of the Park Loop Road. This is now mostly a red spruce-balsam fir forest typical of Mount Desert Island forests before the 1947 fire.

Otter Cliffs is a popular location for rock-climbing. Many sites along this section of shore are named for otters—Otter Cliffs, Otter Point, Otter Cove, and Otter Creek. Such names associated with coastline landmarks give the impression that sea otters are here. They are not! River otters, however, are native.

## **(K) OTTER POINT**

*Passengers can get off bus and walk across the Park Loop Road to the Ocean Trail.*

### **Location**

*Mile 10.5* Otter Point is not one specific place but an area along the shore. The Ocean Trail ends (or begins here, depending on your perspective).

### **Parking**

There is a lot with approximately 50 diagonal parking spaces.



As the deciduous woods of the Park Loop Road's first half are in contrast to the spruce-fir forest traveled through now, so is Otter Point's jumbled looking coastline in contrast to the beautiful pink coarse-grained granite. This convoluted rusty-appearing rock is aptly called the shatter zone. It can be found encircling the mountains, and marks the contact zone where the hot magma plug and the overlying cold bedrock met beneath the surface of the Earth some 420 million years ago.

This severely shattered and fractured rock is up to a mile wide in some areas. Angular blocks of rock fragments can be found embedded in the solidified granitic mix. The rusty color comes from iron oxide as well as other mineral depositions.

Tidepools though, are perhaps the most amazing aspect of the shore. These pools form in rock depressions and harbor a remarkable array of plants and animals. The tide creates habitats where organisms have adapted to a variety of conditions that can occur all within a few feet of each other. Twice daily, the rise and fall of the tide leaves these intertidal organisms exposed or submerged. Depending on their specific tolerance of exposure, "zones" have formed, named for their dominant species.

The upper-most level is dominated by blue-green algae. Called the black zone, this is only submerged during the highest of tides. Small, volcano shaped barnacles bunch together giving the zone beneath the black zone a stripe of whitish color. Blue mussels and periwinkles are also found in the barnacle zone. Forests of rockweeds, create the greenish rockweed zone in the middle level of the tidepool. These stringy seaweeds hide many creatures beneath their tangled blades. The rockweed zone is also home to dog whelks and green crabs. Beneath the rockweeds is another zone characterized by a seaweed. The Irish moss zone is dominated by a short, frilly red seaweed. Many other seaweeds such as sea lettuce, nori, and purple laver are found here. The bottom level of the tidepool is rarely exposed to air. The kelp zone holds long-bladed seaweeds that cover sea stars, sea cucumbers, and sea urchins.

This diurnal fluctuation of the ocean obviously plays a critical role in determining who lives where along the coast. Tides are the result of the movement of water due to the gravitational attraction between the Earth, Sun, and Moon. A slight bulge forms in the ocean as each locality on the Earth rotates through the Moon's gravitational pull. The centrifugal force of the Earth's rotation creates another bulge on the opposite side of the Earth. Where the bulges occur, it is high tide; where the water is "flattened out," it is low tide. Because the Moon revolves around the Earth in a 28 day cycle, the tides change by 50 minutes each day. The Sun's gravitational pull has an effect on tides as well, although not as pronounced as the Moon's.



## **Background Information/Narrative**

### **Otter Point to Jordan Pond**

To the left, at mile 11 is the Fabbri Memorial, in honor of the important naval radio station that operated from this site during WWI through the early 1930s. To the right is another entrance to Fabbri Picnic Area. From the picnic area you can take Otter Cliffs Road to State Route 3.

#### **OTTER POINT TO OTTER COVE**

*No planned stops.*

Beyond Otter Point the Fabbri Picnic Area is accessible again. During WWI, a strategically important naval radio station operated from this location to receive signals from the European front. In the 1930s, although still vital to U.S. military efforts, it also represented an obstacle in the proposed continuation of the Park Loop Road through this scenic portion of Mount Desert Island. In 1932, a solution was reached and the United States Navy and Department of the Interior agreed that the park, which now owned Schoodic Peninsula, would offer land for the relocation of the naval station. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., still involved in the Park Loop Road development, contributed funds for the re-establishment of the naval station.

After Otter Point, the road winds over a causeway in quiet Otter Cove. To the right, Cadillac and Dorr Mountains rise in the background. From this viewpoint, they appear as one mountain with a notch cut out of the ridge. This is a meltwater channel, a glacial feature where a raging river ran beneath the retreating ice, gouging the rock to form two separate mountains. Back at Great Meadow, the same feature was viewed from a different angle.

#### **FROM OTTER COVE (MILE 11.3) TO OUTER ISLAND VIEWING OVERLOOK (MILE 12.4)**

*No planned stops.*

Many things fascinate visitors about the Maine coast. Lobster boats and lobster buoys often catch the visitors' eye out on the ocean. Each lobsterman owns his own traps, boat, and distinctive buoys with shape and color combination selected by the individual. The buoys mark where the lobster traps are on the ocean floor. Besides lobster buoys, bobbing in the ocean are large sea ducks—the common eider. In the early summer, the mottled brown females can be seen gathered in small groups with a clutch of ducklings. Toward summer's end, the black and white males make an impressive sight when they gather in large rafts, often numbering in the hundreds.

## **BAKER ISLAND AND LITTLE CRANBERRY ISLAND VIEW**

*Passengers can remain on bus.*

### **Location**

*Mile 12.4* Three pull-offs with views out to sea and back toward the coast around Otter Point. Of the three pull-offs, the best outer island view is from the third one.

### **Parking**

Parallel parking is available.

The outer islands viewed from here include Baker Island, furthest to the east, and Little Cranberry Island, lying just to the west. In the far distance is Great Cranberry. Bunker's Ledge, indicated by a small white pyramidal monument, lies in the front.

While looking at these islands today, one may feel a sense of isolation, or perceived detachment, from the rest of the world (or at least from interstates and movie theaters!) But 150 years ago, islanders knew that quite the opposite was true. Islands were prime real estate then, but not because of their scenic views. Lying closer to the sail transportation of the day and important shipping routes, islands were the prime location for distributing lumber, granite, fish, ice, feathers, and other commodities to all corners of the globe. During the 1800s, island communities like the Cranberry Isles helped to provide food and other items to growing cities such as Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. These ordinary, everyday people were the backbone of a developing nation and therefore very important to its history. On Little Cranberry Island, the Islesford Historical Museum, another part of Acadia National Park, preserves stories of these maritime Mainers.

Today Baker Island is also a part of Acadia National Park, but in the early 1800s, William and Hannah Gilley with their three young children rowed from Southwest Harbor to claim, not purchase, Baker Island for their home. Nine more children would come along, reveling in the forests and shores of this beautiful Maine island. The United States government built a lighthouse on Baker in 1828, and William became the first lighthouse keeper, keeping his family in all the whale oil they could use.

Some of William and Hannah's children remained on Baker while some left to live on Mount Desert Island or other islands. Other families eventually came to live on Baker as well and at one time the island had a sizeable population. A small cemetery on the island gives pause to picture life on this magical island.

Today the lighthouse is automated and almost all the land is part of Acadia. A few buildings remain and two homes are privately owned. With Baker Island's fields of lupine and rugosa rose, its wild storm beach on its southern side and its outstanding view of Mount Desert Island, it is a special destination for park visitors with boat access.

### **BAKER AND LITTLE CRANBERRY ISLAND VIEW (MILE 13.2) TO WILDWOOD STABLES**

*No planned stops.*

At mile 12.9 is a steep staircase that leads down to Little Hunter's Beach, a very different type of beach filled with spherical cobbles and boulders framed by cliffs. Where the sea breaks apart rock and removes it, it also deposits it in the form of fine sediments, gravel, cobbles, and boulders. Many of these rocks broke from the surrounding cliffs, their jagged edges eventually smoothed and rounded by constant tumbling in the ocean waves only to be deposited in this sloping shoreline pocket.

NOTE: Little Hunter's Beach cannot be seen from the Park Loop Road. You must descend the stairs to reach the site. There is not an official parking area—only a pull-out for 2 or 3 vehicles.

Before dropping into the spruce woods, a pull-off at mile 13.2 affords a final glimpse of Little Cranberry Island, Sutton's Island, and Great Cranberry Island. The homes jutting out along Mount Desert Island's rocky coast are in the town of Seal Harbor.

The road now leaves ocean views behind and winds through inland forests of red spruce and balsam fir. This spruce-fir forest is perhaps similar to the one that burned in the fire of 1947 and is typical of Maine forests in much of the northern sections of the state. Red spruce and balsam fir can be distinguished easily from each other by their needles. Red spruce has "spiky" needles; balsam fir has "flat, friendly" needles. Although associated together, red spruce is the dominant species.

Along this section of the Park Loop Road, the red spruce trees tower above a forest floor that is almost void of other vegetation. A spruce forest is a world of stillness, dampness, dense shade, and low diversity. Its acidic soil lacks many nutrients and thick needle-covered branches block the sun from reaching the forest floor. These ecological conditions combine to make an uninviting environment for most other species to live. Shallow-rooted trees, the red spruce is susceptible to blow downs, creating a domino effect as one spruce tree knocks over another.

One of the more common animals found in a spruce forest are red squirrels. The remains of shredded red spruce cones, a favorite food of the red squirrel, litter the base of many trees. Like all park wildlife, they should not be fed by park visitors. Visitors who feel obligated to feed animals like chipmunks, red fox, red squirrels, and seagulls only create nuisance animals in the long-run. The end result is the demise of the animal because of its growing dependence on people to feed them.

At mile 14.1, Hunters Brook Trail follows a stream through spruce woods eventually connecting with the Pond Trail and the Triad.

### **WILDWOOD STABLES (MILE 15.3) TO JORDAN POND**

*No planned stops.*

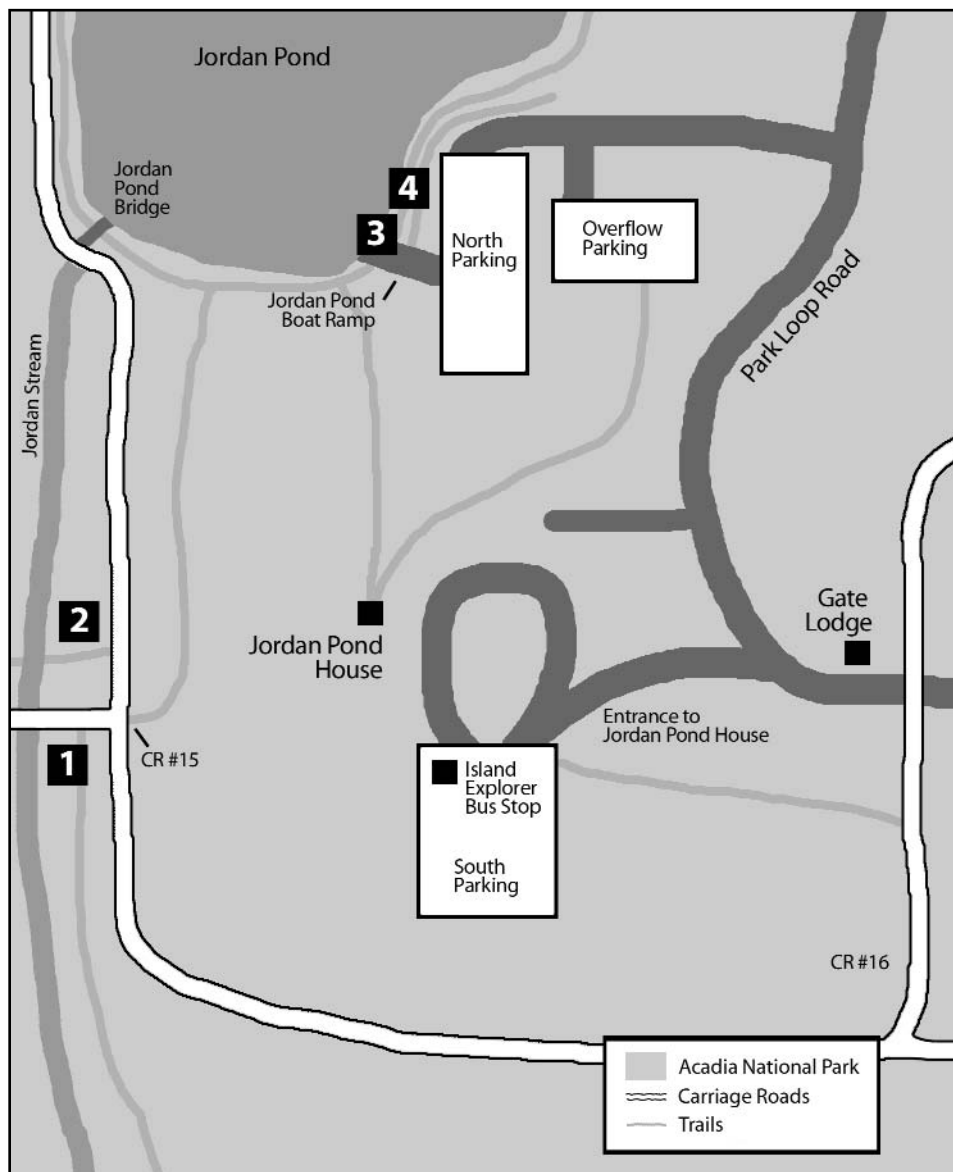
Visitors can turn a page of history riding buckboard carriages along the carriage roads. At one time, buckboards similar to those used by Wildwood Stables transported rusticators from one scenic spot to another in the 1800s. The tradition continues today, as trips take visitors to the top of Day Mountain, to the Cobblestone Bridge, or for tea and popovers at Jordan Pond.

At mile 15.9, the Park Loop Road becomes two-way at the junction with the Stanley Brook Road. Stanley Brook Road is 1.2 miles long and leads to State Route 3 in Seal Harbor at the Seal Harbor beach. There is a three-arch carriage road bridge spanning the Stanley Brook Road that has a low clearance of 10.9 feet. This road is not recommended for buses.

A sharp left leads to a quiet residential area of Seal Harbor, while continuing straight ahead on the Park Loop Road leads to Jordan Pond. There is one more opportunity to access Wildwood Stables here as well. A dirt road on the right hand side of the road leads back to the stables. At mile 16.3 is the Jordan Pond Gatelodge, a private residence. At mile 16.4 is the Jordan Pond Tea House.

## SECTION TWO – PARK SITES

### Chapter Eight – Jordan Pond



- 1** Jordan Stream Trail
- 2** Asticou Trail  
Sargent Mountain Trail
- 3** Jordan Pond Trail
- 4** Jordan Pond Nature Trail



## **Before You Go – What to Know Jordan Pond Logistics**

### **LOCATION**

*Mile 16.4* Jordan Pond is off the two-way section of the Park Loop Road. It can also be accessed from the Stanley Brook Road entrance in Seal Harbor (this has a bridge with a low clearance and is not recommended for tour buses). Winter access is only from Seal Harbor on the Jordan Pond Road (past the Seal Harbor fire station).

NOTE: The “classic” Jordan Pond view of the Bubbles can only be seen by walking behind the tea house or down the boat ramp.

### **AREA HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **(LG) Jordan Pond House and Gift Shop**

The Jordan Pond House serves both lunch and dinner as well as tea and popovers. This tradition is over 100 years old! Seating can be on the lawn, covered porch, or in the restaurant. Reservations are important (276-3316), especially in the afternoon for tea and popovers where waits of up to one and a half hours are not unusual. Visitors bringing their own lunch can eat upstairs on the deck (chairs and tables provided) or on the lawn in front of the restaurant’s outdoor seating. The gift shop sells numerous books and guides, clothing, and souvenirs, as well as snacks upstairs.

#### **(K) Jordan Pond Nature Trail**

The Jordan Pond Nature Trail is a half mile loop trail through the woods and along Jordan Pond’s edge. The trail begins off the road leading to the boat ramp. The guide is stocked in a trailhead box 30 feet down the trail, or is for sale at the gift shop or park information centers (text included in the appendix).

#### **Jordan Pond Gate Lodge**

Built in 1932, the gate lodge consists of a carriage house connected to the gatekeeper’s residence and a gate attached via a masonry fence to prevent automobiles from turning on to the carriage roads. Timbers are from cypress and the roof is covered with a crudely made French shingle tile in shades of brown, red, and black, similar to terra cotta. The shutters have the letter “A” for Grosvenor Atterbury, the architect of the gate lodge. One of Rockefeller’s engineers, Paul Simpson lived here in Jordan Pond Gate Lodge in the 1930s. It is now a park residence and not open to the public.

### **(LG/K) Carriage Roads**

Although the Jordan Pond area provides good access to the carriage road system, some of the carriage roads to the south of Jordan Pond are on private property and off-limits to bicyclists (but not horses or walkers). Both bikers and walkers should bring a Carriage Road Users Map or guide book (available at park information centers). Posted numbers at road intersections correspond to maps in carriage road guides. Check carriage road guides for specific closure areas. Carriage road excursions in addition to the one described below can be found in the Recreation section “Biking” on page 4-14.

### **(LG/K) Around Jordan Pond House**

Carriage road explorers can seek out three stone-faced bridges: the Cobblestone Bridge along Jordan Stream, the Jordan Pond Bridge, and the West Branch Bridge (on carriage road leading west toward Brown Mountain). The Jordan Pond Bridge is the most accessible from the Jordan Pond House, located at the southern end of the pond. The Cobblestone Bridge, spanning Jordan Stream, is a half mile to the south of Jordan Pond House. It is the only bridge faced with rounded stones rather than cut granite. The West Branch Bridge, half mile to the north, on the carriage road leading westward towards the Amphitheater, has a narrow gothic arch.

### **TIME ALLOTMENT**

At a minimum, expect to spend one hour at Jordan Pond; more, if you plan to eat at the restaurant or walk the nature trail.

- *Restroom visit:* 15 minutes
- *Walk to the pond's edge or along a short section of carriage road:* 1/2 hour
- *Gift shop browsing:* 15 minutes
- *Tea and popovers, provided you have a reservation:* 1 hour
- *Jordan Pond Nature Trail:* 30 minutes

### **PARKING**

Limited to cars and small recreational vehicles with spaces for approximately 50 vehicles in front of the Jordan Pond House, but an appropriate location for drop-off from buses. Two larger lots (adding approximately 150 spaces) are found further north of the Jordan Pond House off the Park Loop Road. The upper lot of these two is connected to the Jordan Pond House via a level wood chip path in the southeastern corner of the lot. The lower lot provides access directly to Jordan Pond via the boat ramp. Parking along the shoulder of the Park Loop Road is illegal. The Jordan Pond Gate Lodge and Acadia Corporation dormitory are private residences with no public parking.



## **FACILITIES**

There are restrooms on the lower level of the gift shop and inside the restaurant. A vault toilet is available in the parking lot by the Jordan Pond boat ramp.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

The Jordan Pond House is fully accessible, including the upper deck via an elevator. The carriage road across from the Jordan Pond Gate Lodge is accessible. The pond can be reached via an accessible trail from the lower parking lot by the boat ramp.

## **SAFETY**

- Occasionally during the summer, the Jordan Pond House experiences an outbreak of yellow jackets on the lawn where tea and popovers are served. The staff will not seat customers where the bees are of greatest density, but visitors should be aware.
- On carriage roads, walkers should be aware of cyclists, while cyclists should be considerate of others by not racing past walkers.
- Cyclists encountering riders on horseback should slow, allow room, and be prepared to stop.
- Congestion in this area is the rule in July and August, so use caution while driving.

## **TRAILHEADS**

For trail description and length, check the Recreation section.

### **Trailheads behind Jordan Pond Gift Shop**

- *Jordan Stream*
- *Asticou Trail*
- *Penobscot Mountain Trail*
- *Jordan Cliffs*

### **Trailheads from Jordan Pond Boat Ramp**

- *Jordan Pond Shore Trail*
- *The Pond Trail*
- *Jordan Pond Nature Trail*



## At a Glance – Jordan Pond

### SIGNIFICANCE

Jordan Pond is one of Acadia's most pristine lakes, with outstanding mountain scenery to match. To maintain its exceptional water quality, monitoring for continued water health occurs every summer. Its glacially-carved landscape exhibits numerous geologic features. Jordan Pond's beauty, not easily forgotten, has created a favorite destination for over a century for multitudes of visitors who have enjoyed canoeing, quiet solitude, or tea and popovers at the Jordan Pond House.

### FAST FACTS

- Jordan Pond is Acadia's deepest lake at 150 feet and is the second largest at 187 acres.
- The Jordan Pond House has served tea and popovers since the late 1800s. The original house burned in 1979, and was rebuilt in 1982.
- The carriage roads were conceived of and built under the direction of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. After completion of many carriage road sections, the land parcel and carriage roads were donated to Acadia National Park. There are 45 miles of carriage roads in the park.
- The Jordan Pond Gate Lodge was built in 1932 as part of the carriage road system.
- Jordan Pond's clear waters are sampled for pH, mercury, clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen to monitor the continued health of the watershed.
- Jordan Cliffs on Penobscot Mountain was the site of a successful reintroduction program in the mid 1980s to return peregrine falcons to Acadia National Park.
- Jordan Pond's U-shaped valley, trough lake, rounded mountains, and steep cliffs are all evidence of glacial carving.

### PROTECTING YOUR PARK – HOW YOU CAN HELP

Remember to follow *Leave No Trace* principles. In particular:

- Because of the popularity of this area in the summer, afternoons are extremely congested. In an effort to stop illegal parking along the Park Loop Road the National Park Service has placed no parking signs and made the shoulder less accessible.
- Jordan Pond is a highly used area, and off-trail use by both hikers and bikers is a concern. Areas where paths have been worn by off-trail users are roped off and re-vegetated with native plants. Please remain on designated trails.
- Because Jordan Pond is Seal Harbor's drinking water supply, swimming and boats with motors above 10 horse power are prohibited.

## **MANAGEMENT CONCERNS**

Many cyclists use Jordan Pond as their ending point, choosing to use the *Island Explorer* shuttle buses to return to their starting points. There is a high demand for buses from Jordan Pond back to Bar Harbor in the late afternoon. Effort should be made when possible to have bikers consider other options, such as taking the bus to Jordan Pond and biking back to their destination or planning to return in the early afternoon rather than late afternoon.

## **HELPFUL INFORMATION – JORDAN POND**

### **Fact Sheets:**

Amphibians 3-34  
Acadia's Fishery 3-39  
Plant Groups of Acadia National Park 3-43  
Caring for Acadia's Native Plants 3-47  
Acadia's Common Plants 3-50  
Geology 3-66  
Water Quality 3-88  
Visitor Use 3-98  
Park History 3-105  
Carriage Roads of Acadia National Park 3-108

### **Appendix:**

Lakes and Ponds (D)  
Mountains (D)  
Acadia National Park Timeline (E)  
Quotes (E)  
Who's Who at Acadia (E)  
Carriage Road Bridges (F)  
Jordan Pond Nature Trail (H)



## **Background Information/Narrative**

### **Jordan Pond**

Jordan Pond's placid waters are surrounded by Penobscot Mountain to the west, the Bubbles to the north, and Pemetic Mountain to the east. The 187 acre "pond" is not only an integral part of Acadia's scenery but also provides critical habitat for wildlife and serves as the drinking water supply for Seal Harbor.

#### **LANDSCAPE**

Jordan Pond's topography is a result of glaciation, having created the U-shaped valley and the deep trough that keep water. The southern shore, where the Jordan Pond House sits, is a glacial moraine formed from glacial debris deposits. The Bubbles' sloping northern sides and steeply chiseled southern sides show the characteristic glacial sculpting of mountains. As the ice crept up the northern slopes, pressure created a thin layer of meltwater at the glacier base. Once over the mountain obstacle, water filled cracks in the granite and refroze. As the ice sheet continued southward, large rocks were "plucked" by fingers of ice from the mountain's southern side. Bubble Rock, visible as a small blip on South Bubble, is a glacial erratic, a rock transported from a distant location and then deposited by the retreating glacier. The large black and white crystals of Bubble Rock contrast with Mount Desert Island's native pink granite. Similar bedrock outcroppings are found 20 miles to the northwest near Lucerne, halfway between Mount Desert Island and Bangor.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Jordan Pond is under the jurisdiction of the State of Maine, powers granted to the state from the Great Ponds Act in the 1600s. Despite the protection afforded by the state and Acadia National Park, there is concern that influences from outside sources, such as air pollutants, acidic deposition, and even potential climate change could adversely affect the ecosystem's integrity. Through annual water quality monitoring during the warm weather months, critical baseline data is analyzed to indicate potential changes.

Jordan Pond's clear waters lack a productive food chain to sustain a strong fishery, although some species of fish are found. These include brook trout, the only native fish on the island, and land-locked salmon and togue, stocked sporadically by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries. Occasional sightings of beavers, loons, and mergansers reward the patient observer. Above Jordan Pond, on the cliffs of Penobscot Mountain, peregrine falcons nest. In the mid-1980s, as part of a peregrine

reintroduction program, Acadia joined with the Peregrine Fund and Cornell University to return these birds to Acadia's skies. Twenty-two peregrine chicks successfully fledged from Jordan Cliffs. In addition to Penobscot Mountain, other sites in the park such as the Precipice are now home again to these magnificent raptors.

The view of Jordan Pond from the south across an open blueberry field is maintained with periodic controlled burns by park rangers to keep tree growth to a minimum and to rejuvenate the blueberry field. Well-meaning hikers and bikers do more damage than controlled burns when straying off the designated trail as footsteps and bicycle tire treads create eroded paths. To discourage wandering, trampled areas are re-planted with native plants and signs request visitor assistance to stay on the trail.

Another example of the park's re-vegetation efforts is at the southern end of Jordan Pond by the Jordan Pond bridge. Selective cutting has returned a historical vista to view while native plantings help to restore a heavily eroded section around the bridge. Non-native plants, like the bittersweet vine that climbs through many of the trees around the Jordan Pond House area, including near the bridge, displace native plants and are not part of the natural landscape that Acadia strives to protect. This vine with its orange berries and woody stem is considered highly ornamental—but in the garden, not in the wild! Bittersweet stands out in the autumn, when its yellow color is obvious against the green needles or leaves of the tree it climbs. Some of the common native plants along the edge of the pond and in the open field include the lowbush blueberry, northern white cedar, speckled alder, and white birch.

## **HISTORY**

An August afternoon here teems with people on bikes, in cars, and on buses. But imagine the solitude of the same location over 100 years ago where owners of a rustic farm served meals to those who would venture to the remote location. The McIntire family bought the property in 1895 and began the tradition of tea and popovers. In 1946 John D. Rockefeller, Jr. purchased the property and donated it to the National Park Service. He also founded the Acadia Corporation, the company that took over management of the Jordan Pond House. In 1979, the original building burned, but the tradition did not end. By 1982, the present-day restaurant was serving the next generation of tea and popover fans.

Carriage roads intersect the heart of Jordan Pond, winding south past Jordan Stream and rising north above the western shore toward the Bubbles. The generous gift of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., they were built from 1913 to 1940 and reflect Rockefeller's

love of road building and his well-trained eye for the landscape. Numerous features enhanced this state-of-the-art road system that comprises over 50 miles. Three of the 16 carriage road bridges are in the Jordan Pond area.

The Jordan Pond Gate Lodge, built in 1932, as well as the Brown Mountain Gate Lodge on State Route 198, enabled horse-drawn carriages to enter the system from the motor roads, while providing a gate to keep autos out. The French Romanesque Revival style of the Gate Lodge has whimsical details such as birdhouses in the garage gable and A's in the shutters for the architect, Grosvenor Atterbury. The gate lodge was placed at a spot where the motor road and carriage road intersected. A bell hung on the rod through the small archway by the gate so carriage drivers could alert the gatekeeper. Although a gatekeeper never lived in the gate lodges, John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s engineer, Paul Simpson lived here with his family. Today it is a private residence for the National Park Service.

Rockefeller donated the roads to Acadia, but also funded a 100-man work crew to maintain them. Upon his death in 1960, the maintenance was completely turned over to the National Park Service. Due to budget constraints resulting in limited maintenance, the carriage roads deteriorated from their original state. In the early 1990s, a historic resource survey of the carriage roads offered numerous recommendations to rehabilitate the roads. Today's carriage roads have a hard-packed fine clay surface, open views, and their original 16 foot width. Coping stones were reset, and culverts and ditches are cleaned of debris yearly to arrest erosion of the roads. This ongoing care assures that this unique cultural resource, not found in any other national park, will continue to provide enjoyment for future generations.

### **JORDAN POND CARRIAGE ROAD WALK FOR GROUPS**

*This option is for groups interested in learning about some aspects of Acadia National Park while walking along the carriage road behind the Jordan Pond House to the Jordan Pond Bridge and on to the Jordan Pond boat ramp.*

#### **Stop One**

Start at Jordan Pond House front and then walk to front of Jordan Pond Gate Lodge. *Use History Narrative, page 2-59.*

#### **Stop Two**

From the gate lodge, cross the Park Loop Road on to the carriage road and walk to intersection #15. Turn to the right to continue walking. *Use History Narrative, page 2-59.*

**Stop Three**

Continue on the carriage road to the Jordan Pond Bridge. The bridge was built in 1920 and is similar to one that Rockefeller fancied in New York City's Central Park. *Use Natural Resources Narrative, page 2-58.*

**Stop Four**

Walk to the east of the bridge along the trail that skirts the edge of Jordan Pond. Stop at the interpretive sign for glacial geology. *Use Landscape Narrative, page 2-58.*

**Stop Five**

Walk up the boat ramp toward the parking lot if walking the Jordan Pond Nature Trail. If not, return to the Jordan Pond House. *Use Jordan Pond Nature Trail Guide in Appendix H.*